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Virginia Department of Health  
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Health Policy  
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Thank you for subscribing to "PPOVA Updates," a service that provides updates about opportunities posted on Virginia's FREE healthcare recruitment website, [Primary Practice Opportunities of Virginia](#).

## We Want Your Thoughts

We'd love to know how helpful this newsletter is for you. Please take a few moments and [complete our survey](#).

Thanks in advance!

## Current Opportunities

For a list of current opportunities in Virginia, please [visit our page on 3RNet](#). We currently have 107 opportunities listed in Virginia.

## Upcoming Events

February 23

[Connecting Safe Routes to School with Health](#) (Webinar)

February 26

[Virginia Business Coalition on Health](#)

Roanoke, VA

March 16-18

[Virginia Rural Health Summit](#)

Danville, VA

[View more events on our calendar](#)

## Recruitment and Retention Collaborative Team Updates

### 2010 Rural Health Summit

Registration is now open for the 2010 Rural Health Summit. A collaborative effort between VRHA and the State Office of Rural Health, the Summit will be held March 16-18 in Danville, VA. The schedule for the event is:

Tuesday, March 16: Rural Workforce Summit

Wednesday, March 17: Annual Rural Health Summit

Thursday, March 18: Telehealth Summit

[Learn more and register today!](#)

### Virginia Rural Health Data Portal

The Virginia Rural Health Data Council has unveiled the Virginia Rural Health Data Portal. The Rural Health Data Portal is a web-based tool that has been developed to provide a quick source of information on topics of special interest to policy makers, rural health providers, researchers, grant writers, and others interested in telling their story on health issues facing rural populations in Virginia.

There are two components of the portal. One side of the portal creates charts and graphs for a variety of information including population, poverty, health workforce, and more. Data can also be downloaded for use by individuals for their own projects.

The mapping side of the portal allows users to create high quality maps. With just a few clicks, grant writers can graphically demonstrate the areas with the most need, policy makers can determine where funds should be spent, and researchers can compare different areas of Virginia.

“When the dream of a data portal was contemplated by the Data Council, we believed it would be several years before it would become a reality in the form we envisioned,” said Ken Cook, Director of Technical Assistance for the Virginia Rural Health Resource Center and Chair of the Rural Health Data Council. “Thanks to all of the partners who participated in the project, it was completed in less than a year, and we have a great building block for the future.”

The portal is a collaborative effort of the Data Council, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Rural Health Association and the Virginia Rural Health Resource Center and is a product of the Virginia State Rural Health Plan. The data presented in the portal is related to the issues and strategies defined in the Virginia State Rural Health Plan. It is anticipated that as additional issues are studied, new data sets will be added.

The data portal can be accessed through the Virginia Rural Health Resource Center website at [www.vrhrc.org](http://www.vrhrc.org). The Virginia State Rural Health Plan can be viewed at [www.va-srhp.org](http://www.va-srhp.org).

#### **VCOM Medical Students Spend Part of Holiday Break Helping to Give Kids the World**



Eleven osteopathic medical students from the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) joined more than 50 fellow osteopathic medical students from around the country to help make the holiday season a little more special for children at Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, Fla.

As part of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association's annual Unity Project, these medical students spent three days volunteering at Give Kids the World, a non-profit organization that gives children with life-threatening illnesses, as well as their families, a chance to escape the reality of their illness for a short time.

[Read more >](#)

#### **VCOM Faculty Member Awarded Grant from Michael J. Fox Foundation: VCOM - Only Osteopathic Medical School Team of the Six Research Teams Awarded**

The Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) is proud to announce that Dr. Beverly Rzigalinski, PhD was awarded funding from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) to develop potentially disease-modifying therapies for Parkinson's disease. The foundation

recently announced \$1.5 million in total awards to six research teams. As part of this elite group, Dr. Rzigalinski's research at VCOM has a specific focus on cerium oxide nanoparticles in the treatment of Parkinson's disease. These nanoparticles protect neurons and organisms from toxic insults induced by free radicals, which are produced in numerous disease states including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, inflammatory disorders such as arthritis, and in aging itself.

Since the beginning of its collaborative partnership with Virginia Tech, VCOM has pursued an active research program with the goal to improve human health. Since VCOM began its research initiative in 2003, award amounts have increased over 300 percent - from \$500,000 in fiscal year 2003 to nearly \$1.8 million for the 2008 fiscal year. Dr. Dixie-Tooke Rawlins, DO, VCOM's Dean is pleased by the progress "I am extremely proud of Dr. Rzigalinski. Her cutting-edge research is a perfect example of the VCOM faculty's commitment to quality research that is applicable to clinical medicine."

As part of VCOM's Pharmacology Department, Dr. Rzigalinski is an integral part of the student curriculum teaching pharmacology to medical student years one and two as well as mentoring students interested in research. Her expertise and reputation as a top researcher is a great value to the medical students at VCOM.

[Read More >](#)

### **Virginia 2010 Small Rural Hospital Conference**

The Virginia 2010 Small Rural Hospital Conference will be held April 13 and 14 in conjunction with the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Spring Conference in Williamsburg, VA. For information contact Beth O'Connor at [boconnor@vcom.vt.edu](mailto:boconnor@vcom.vt.edu) or 540-231-7023.

### **VCOM's National Center for the Analysis of Healthcare Data Update**

VCOM's National Center for the Analysis of Healthcare Data has recently completed preparing and providing to HRSA for inclusion in the national Area Resource File, the following county level number for the nation's healthcare workforce: Advanced Practice Nurses, Certified Nurse Midwives, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Psychologists, Pharmacists, Podiatrists, Audiologists, Optometrists, Dentists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Oral-Maxillofacial Surgeons, Naturopaths, and Physical Therapists.

For many of these providers, this is the first time that this type of information has been made publically available from a non-membership based source. In the past, the ARF was populated from survey data from the provider's national membership organization, e.g. AMA's masterfile for the physician data. HRSA will be working with NCAHD in the near future in the creation of a national healthcare workforce data collection standard that state licensing boards will be encouraged to use for future data collection regulation modifications.

### **Rural Healthcare Workforce Recognition Awards**

The Healthcare Workforce Council of the Virginia State Rural Health Plan introduces a new initiative: the establishment of the Virginia Rural Healthcare Workforce Awards Program.

The Virginia Rural Healthcare Workforce Awards will recognize and thank individuals and/or organizations for making significant contributions to rural communities through education, recruitment and retention initiatives designed to

education, recruitment and retention initiatives designed to address Virginia's healthcare workforce shortage.

Up to two individuals will receive the "Distinguished Service" awards and up to two organizations will receive the "Outstanding Contribution" awards.

These awards will be presented at the 2010 Health Workforce Summit, scheduled for March 16, 2010. All recipients will be recognized on the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy and Virginia's State Rural Health Plan websites.

[Learn more and submit a nomination.](#)

### **Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program, until March 4, 2010! Get financial assistance to pay down your nursing training debt by working in a facility that has a critical nursing shortage. Please visit [the program website](#) for more information.

### **VCOM Sports Medicine Olympic Blog**

Gunnar Brolinson, D.O., Associate Dean for Clinical Research and Chair of the Sports Medicine Program at the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), will be a member of the medical team for the 2010 Olympic Games!

Dr. Brolinson will be in Vancouver today to begin setting up the Vancouver sports performance clinic. The games start on February 12, 2010.

If you would like to know about his experiences, he will be posting on a blog: <http://vcomsportsmed.blogspot.com>

### **Applying to the NHSC Loan Repayment Program Just Got Easier!**

The new LRP application can be found at:  
<https://lrpbcrs.hrsa.gov>.

Links to the new Application Information Bulletin (AIB) and Forms can be found at: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment>.

### **Funding Available for Health Care Jobs in Needy Communities**

\$200 Million in Recovery Act funds are expected to support 3,300 clinicians in health centers, rural health clinics, and other health care facilities that care for the uninsured and underserved people. In exchange for two years service with the National Health Services Corp, clinicians will receive loan repayments of up to \$50,000.

- [National Health Service Corps](#)
- [Number of jobs by State](#)
- [Locate Vacancies](#)
- [Apply for the program](#)

Please contact Kai Turner at the Virginia Department of Health if you have questions (804) 864-7423.

### **Important Information on the National Health Service Corp (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program** New Money available now!!

The Health Resources and Services Administration is now accepting new applications to support loan repayment for bonafide educational debt for primary care medical, dental

and certain behavioral/mental health clinicians who want to work at National Health Service Corps (NHSC) sites. In exchange for the loan repayment assistance, clinicians serve for two years with the Corps. The new funds, totaling almost \$200 million, are expected to support about 3,300 clinicians that will serve in health centers, rural health clinics and other health outpatient/ambulatory care sites that care for uninsured and underserved people.

HRSA is encouraging fully trained primary health care clinicians who are dedicated to working with the underserved and have qualifying educational loans to apply for this opportunity. In addition to an initial award of up to \$50,000 for loan repayment, each clinician receives a competitive salary and a chance to have a significant impact on a community. Primary health care clinicians interested in applying for the NHSC loan repayment program should visit: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/apply.htm>.

